

## PROJECT SUMMARY

SNC Reference Number  
(enter if previously assigned)  
**SNC- 080143**

**County:** Sierra

**Applicant:** The Trust for Public Land

**Project Title:** Cold Stream Creek Property Acquisition

## PROJECT GOAL

The purpose of this acquisition project is to permanently protect 1,174 acres (two sections) in Sierra County from the threat of development or timber harvesting in order to preserve its unique wildlife habitat, water quality benefits, and scenic views. Acquisition of this site also preserves the opportunity for future modifications to the Mt. Lola Trail, which traverses the property, in order to make the trail safer and more accessible to the public. Protection of this property would also make possible the reintroduction of Lahontan cutthroat trout within Cold Stream Creek, which flows on the property for about two miles. The goal of this project is for The Trust for Public Land (TPL) and its partner the Truckee Donner Land Trust (TDLT) to purchase this site from the current landowner and ultimately convey it to the USFS Tahoe National Forest to achieve long-term conservation benefits. The California Wilderness Coalition has indicated that the boundaries of the proposed Castle Peak Wilderness Area, to which this property is adjacent, will be expanded to include Cold Stream upon protection.

The acquisition of the Cold Stream Creek property is necessary to permanently protect this site from the threat of future residential development or timber harvesting, both of which would have detrimental impacts to the water and air quality, disrupt habitat and connectivity with surrounding protected lands, and significantly diminish the recreational and scenic values of this landscape.

The Cold Stream Creek acquisition also augments past and current conservation efforts by TPL, The Nature Conservancy and the TDLT in the Independence Lake and Little Truckee River watersheds, creating contiguous public ownership from Independence Lake to Perazzo Meadows (see the Northern Sierra Checkerboard map). The northern section of the property being acquired, section 29, is adjacent to a Croman parcel that TPL and TDLT acquired with private funding in 2006. It is also adjacent to the southwest corner of Perazzo Meadows, currently under contract by TPL and TDLT. TPL and TDLT have also applied to the Preserving Wild California ("PWC") program for funding to protect the 400-acre Paradise Creek property adjacent to the Castle Peak Proposed Wilderness Area. Acquisition of the two Cold Stream Creek property sections, in conjunction with the pending Perazzo Meadows project which has received full funding from State sources, Croman-Independence Lake which was protected with PWC support, and Sierra Pacific Power-Independence

Lake projects receiving federal and state funding, totals nearly 7,000 acres. This assemblage of contiguous acreage from four separate owners is a grand slam for conservation and a significant enhancement to the Castle Peak Proposed Wilderness Area.

## PROJECT SCOPE

This site is located within the Tahoe National Forest and is partially located within the boundaries of the proposed Castle Peak Wilderness Area. Acquisition of this property will protect the water quality of Cold Stream Creek, which flows for approximately 2 miles on the property and is an important tributary to the Little Truckee River. The site also includes more than 3 miles of the popular Mt. Lola Trail. Acquisition of this project site will preserve the scenic views from the trail and from the top of Mt. Lola, the highest peak in the Tahoe National Forest. A grant from the Sierra Nevada Conservancy will be applied directly to the fee title acquisition of this property and will be matched at a nearly 2:1 ratio with other public and private funds to complete this project by June 2009.

## LETTERS OF SUPPORT

This application includes letters of support from the California Wilderness Coalition, Truckee Donner Land Trust, U.S. Forest Service's Tahoe National Forest Sierraville Ranger Station, the Truckee River Watershed Council and the Northern Sierra Partnership.

## SNC PROJECT DELIVERABLES AND SCHEDULE

DETAILS PROJECT DELIVERABLES	TIMELINE
Pre-project due diligence: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Signed purchase agreement with current landowners</li> <li>2. Site appraisals</li> <li>3. Environmental Assessment</li> <li>4. Fundraising</li> </ol>	Completed July 16, 2008 To be completed Nov. 15 ,2008 To be completed mid-October 2008 In progress: July 2008 – April 2009
Project Deliverable: TPL to purchase 1,174-acre Cold Stream Creek site for long-term resource protection and eventual conveyance to the U.S. Forest Service. Fee title conveyance from TPL to the Truckee Donner Land Trust if U.S. Forest Service is not able to take title immediately after close of escrow.	June 2009
Submission of six-month progress reports	n/a- project will be completed within 6 months of SNC board approval
Submission of final report	August 2009, or approx two months after close of escrow

**SNC PROJECT COSTS**

<b>PROJECT BUDGET CATEGORIES*</b>	<b>TOTAL SNC FUNDING</b>
Fee title acquisition	\$1,000,000
<b>SNC GRANT TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,000,000</b>

*\* All other costs for this project, including staff services and real estate due diligence are part of the match for this project. See Item 13: Acquisition Schedule for a comprehensive project budget.*